

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a data center computer network, a method for controlling a plurality of computer systems from a controller, the method comprising:

an act of maintaining a plurality of unique sets at a controller, each unique set differentiated by operational capability, customer association or application running, and comprising a grouping of at least one computing device configured to process jobs;

an act of determining that a computing device of at least one of the unique sets has finished a portion of the jobs assigned to the computing device;

providing at the controller a selection corresponding to at least one computing device;

an act of providing at the controller a new job corresponding to at least one operation to perform on the selection a computing device of the plurality of unique sets;

an act of receiving a command to redeploy the computing device that finished a portion of the assigned jobs, the redeploying comprising assigning the computing device to a new unique set;

an act of sending a message from the controller to each computing device in the selection new unique set, including the redeployed computing device, the message instructing the each computing device that receives the message to execute the new job; and

at the controller, an act of storing results of the new job from each computing device in the selection new unique set.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein providing at the controller the selection unique set comprises providing data corresponding to at least one set of computing devices.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein providing at the controller the job comprises providing data corresponding to a script to run on the selection unique set.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein providing at the controller

the job comprises providing data corresponding to a binary program to run on the ~~selection unique set~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the data corresponding to a binary program to run on the ~~selection unique set~~ comprises a network address.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, receiving the message at an agent on a computing device identified in the ~~selection unique set~~, and executing the job in response to the message.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein executing the job in response to the message comprises running a script.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein executing the job in response to the message comprises running a binary program.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein running a binary program comprises retrieving the program based on a network address in the message.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, receiving at the controller discovery information indicating that a node computing device is operational so as to be controlled by the controller.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising, recognizing that the node computing device is already controlled by the controller.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising, recognizing that the node computing device is not controlled by the controller, and controlling the node computing device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising, adding information identifying the node computing device to a data store maintained by the controller.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising, automatically configuring the node computing device based on receiving the discovery information.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein storing results of the job comprises collecting the results in a storage.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein storing results of the job comprises persisting the results.

17-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) In a data center computer network, a system for controlling a plurality of computer systems from a controller, the system comprising:

a controller, the controller configured to receive a selection maintain a plurality of unique sets, each set comprising a grouping corresponding to of at least one node computing device configured to process jobs, among a plurality of unique nodes each unique set that are differentiated by operational capability, customer association or application running;

a node computing device identified in the selection unique set, the node computing device including agent software connected for communication with controller software on the controller;

a job maintained by the controller, the job corresponding to at least one operation to perform on the selection computing device identified in the unique set, wherein the computing device is configured to process a new job after processing the job;

a transport configured to communicate a message containing data corresponding to the job from the controller software to the agent software of the node computing device after determining that a computing device has finished a portion of the jobs assigned to the computing device, the message instructing the agent software to make the computing device that finished a portion of the assigned jobs part of a new unique set and execute the a new job, the agent software of the node computing device executing the new job and returning results to the controller in response to receiving the message; and

a data store at the controller, the controller storing the results from the agent software in the data store.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 further comprising a schema interface configured to provide access to information in the data store.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25 further comprising an execution engine at the node computer computing device, the agent software communicating with the execution engine to perform the at least one operation corresponding to the job.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the execution engine comprises a script engine, and wherein the agent software communicates with the execution engine to run a

script.

29. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the execution engine software for executing a binary program, and wherein the agent software communicates with the execution engine to run the binary program.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25 further comprising software on the ~~node computing device~~ that performs a set of at least one special operation requested by the controller.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein the set of at least one special operation comprises a reboot operation.

32. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein the set of at least one special operation comprises a suspend operation.

33. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein the set of at least one special operation comprises a shutdown operation.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25 further comprising a discovery listening process at the controller that detects discovery information provided by ~~nodes computing devices~~ on the network.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34 wherein the controller includes software for automatically configuring a ~~node computing device~~ that provides the discovery information.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34 wherein each ~~node computing device~~ includes a discovery component for automatically providing the discovery information.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36 wherein each ~~node computing~~

device automatically provides the discovery information following a reboot of that node computing device.

38-48. (Cancelled).

49. (New) In a data center computer network, a method for controlling a plurality of computer systems from a controller, the method comprising:

an act of maintaining a plurality of unique sets at a controller, each unique set identifiable by network address and differentiated by operational capability, customer association or application running, and comprising a grouping of at least one computing device configured to process a binary program;

an act of determining that a computing device of at least one of the unique sets has finished processing a portion of the binary program assigned to the computing device;

an act of providing at the controller a new binary program including at least one script to process on a computing device of the plurality of unique sets;

an act of an agent receiving a command to redeploy the computing device that finished a portion of the assigned binary program;

an act of redeploying the computing device that finished a portion of the assigned binary program in response to the command, the redeploying comprising assigning the computing device to a new unique set;

an act of sending a message from the controller to each computing device in the new unique set, including the redeployed computing device, the message instructing each computing device that receives the message to execute the new binary program; and

at the controller, an act of storing results of the new binary program from each computing device in the new unique set.